1994 when it was decided to constitute a Committee of the Sugar Ministers of five major sugar producing States (U.P., Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) under the Chairmanship of the Sugar Minister of Uttar Pradesh. This Committee submitted its report in April, 1995 recommending, *inter alia* constitution of a National Pricing Board for the purpose. The question of setting up of this Board was considered in the Conference of Sugar Ministers of all the sugar producing States held on 6.5.1995. It was decided in that Conference to obtain detailed views of all the sugar producing States before constitution of the proposed Board. All the State Governments were accordingly requested to furnish their views in this regard to this Ministry. Views of the Government of Maharashtra are awaited.

Complaint from twenty first century Medicare Limited, New Delhi against a Japanese Importer

2420. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter dated 19th November, 1996 from an Hon'ble MP forwarding a complaint from Twenty First Century Medicare Ltd., New Delhi against a Japanese Importer of cut and polished Diamonds for indulging in cheating;

(b) whether the complainant has sought CBI investigation into the matter;

(c) whether Government are taking immediate steps to order investigation in cooperation with INTER-POL against the accused Japanese company so as to protect Indian Company's interests as well as our foreign exchange interest; and

(d) if so, the nature of action taken in the matter, with facts in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected from the concerned authorities and will be laid on the table of the House.

Liability of the Manufacturer after Warranty Period

2421. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Manufacturer's liability does not end after warranty period" appearing in the Times of India, dated 18th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Few cases decided by Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora regarding complaints pertaining to defects in vehicles have been cited in the article. The Fora had drawn a distinction between manufacturing defects and problems arising out of negligence on the part of the consumer. Only in the former case the courts awarded relief to the consumer.

(c) The warranty is already covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and consumer can seek redressal under the provisions of section 2(1)(f) for any defect and section 2(1)(g) for deficiency in the product and services.

Data Bank for PF Subscribers

2422. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is creating a data bank of all PF subscribers in the country;

(b) the total number of persons to whom the pensions have been disbursed as on date;